

2005/2006 SEASON

CENTER FOR THE ARTS



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GEORGE
MASON
UNIVERSITY

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

 presents 



February 10 & 11, 2006, 8:00 p.m.

Craig Biesecker Joe Bowie Charlton Boyd Amber Darragh Rita Donahue
Lorena Egan* Marjorie Folkman Lauren Grant John Heginbotham
David Leventhal Bradon McDonald Gregory Nuber Maile Okamura
June Omura Noah Vinson Julie Worden Michelle Yard

**apprentice*

Artistic Director

Mark Morris

Executive Director

Nancy Umanoff

with the

MMDG Music Ensemble

Program

From Old Seville

Rock of Ages

Somebody's Coming to See Me Tonight

Rhymes With Silver

*Altria Group, Inc. is the Lead Sponsor of the Mark Morris Dance Group's 25th Anniversary Season.
MetLife Foundation is the Official Sponsor of the Mark Morris Dance Group's 25th Anniversary National Tour.*

*The Mark Morris Dance Group's performances are made possible with public funds from
the National Endowment for the Arts Dance Program and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.*



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THE TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND THE USE OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE THEATER.

Choreography by Mark Morris

FROM OLD SEVILLE

Music: Manuel Requiebro – *A Esa Mujer*

Lighting: Nicole Pearce

Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, Mark Morris

Premiere: January 20, 2001 – Martha @ Town Hall, New York, New York

-pause-

ROCK OF AGES

Music: Franz Schubert - Piano trio in E flat, Adagio, D897 (1828)

Costumes: Katherine McDowell

Lighting: Nicole Pearce

Yosuke Kawasaki, *violin*; Wolfram Koessel, *cello*; Steven Beck, *piano*

Amber Darragh, Rita Donahue, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard
(February 10th performance)

Craig Biesecker, Rita Donahue, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard
(February 11th performance)

Commissioned in part by Cal Performances.

Premiere: October 28, 2004 – Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, California

-pause-

SOMEBODY'S COMING TO SEE ME TONIGHT

Music: Stephen Foster - "The Hour for Thee and Me," "Beautiful Dreamer,"
"Gentle Annie," "Soirée Polka," "Somebody's Coming To See Me Tonight,"
"Linger In Blissful Repose," "Wilt Thou Be Gone, Love?," "Katy Bell,"
"Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming" (1850-1864)

Costumes: Susan Ruddle

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Eileen Clark, *soprano*; Thomas Meglioranza, *baritone*;

Emily Eyre, *alto*; Philip Anderson, *tenor*;

Yosuke Kawasaki, *violin*; Wolfram Koessel, *cello*; Steven Beck, *piano*

Craig Biesecker, Joe Bowie, Amber Darragh, Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham,
David Leventhal, Bradon McDonald, Maile Okamura, June Omura

Premiere: June 6, 1995 - Emerson Majestic, Boston, Massachusetts

-INTERMISSION-

RHYMES WITH SILVER

Music: Lou Harrison - *Prelude, Allegro, Scherzo, Ductia, Gigue and Musette, Chromatic Rhapsody, Romantic Waltz, Fox Trot, Threnody, In Honor of Prince Kantemir, 5-Tone Kit, Round Dance* - commissioned score (1997)

Set Design: Howard Hodgkin

Costumes: Martin Pakledinaz

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Yosuke Kawasaki, *violin*; Jessica Troy, *viola*; Wolfram Koessel, *cello*;
Steven Beck, *piano*; William Winant, *percussion*

Craig Biesecker, Joe Bowie, Charlton Boyd, Amber Darragh, Rita Donahue,
Lorena Egan, Marjorie Folkman, Lauren Grant, John Heginbotham, David Leventhal,
Bradon McDonald, Gregory Nuber, Maile Okamura, June Omura,
Noah Vinson, Julie Worden, Michelle Yard

Premiere: March 6, 1997 - Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, California

MEET THE ARTISTS

MARK MORRIS was born on August 29, 1956 in Seattle, Washington, where he studied as a young man with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of his career, he performed with Lar Lubovitch, Hannah Kahn, Laura Dean, Eliot Feld, and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble. He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980, and has since created more than 120 works for the company. From 1988–1991, he was Director of Dance at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, the national opera house of Belgium. Among the works created during his tenure were three evening-length dances: *The Hard Nut*; *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*; and *Dido and Aeneas*. In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Morris is also much in demand as a ballet choreographer. He has created six works on the San Francisco Ballet since 1994 and received commissions from American Ballet Theatre, and the Boston Ballet, among others. His work is in the repertory of the Geneva Ballet, New Zealand Ballet, Houston Ballet, English National Ballet, and The Royal Ballet, Covent Garden. He has worked extensively in opera, directing and choreographing productions for the New York City Opera, English National Opera, and The Royal Opera, Covent Garden. Morris was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991. He has received honorary doctorates from The Boston Conservatory of Music, The Juilliard School, Long Island University, Pratt Institute, Bowdoin College, and George Mason University. Morris is the subject of a biography by Joan Acocella (Farrar, Straus & Giroux). In 2001, Marlowe & Company published *Mark Morris' L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato: A Celebration*, a volume of photographs and critical essays.

The **MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP**, now celebrating its 25th Anniversary, was formed in 1980 and gave its first concert that year in New York City. The company's touring schedule steadily expanded to include cities both in the U.S. and in Europe, and in 1986 it made its first national television program for the PBS series *Dance in America*. In 1988, the Dance Group was invited to become the national dance company of Belgium, and spent three years in residence at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels. The company returned to the United States in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies, performing across the U.S. and at major international festivals. It has maintained and strengthened its ties to several cities around the world, most notably Berkeley, CA, where Cal Performances presents the company in two annual seasons, including engagements of *The*

Hard Nut each December. It appears regularly in Boston, MA; Fairfax, VA; Seattle, WA; Urbana, IL; and at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, MA. MMDG made its debut at the Mostly Mozart Festival in 2002 and at the Tanglewood Music Festival in 2003 and has since returned to both festivals annually. The company's London seasons have garnered two Laurence Olivier Awards. MMDG is noted for its commitment to live music, a feature of every performance on its full international touring schedule since 1996. Cellist Yo Yo Ma has frequently collaborated with the Dance Group; their projects include the 1997 Emmy Award-winning film *Falling Down Stairs* and the 2002 dance *Kolam*, created for The Silk Road Project in collaboration with Indian composer Zakir Hussain and jazz pianist Ethan Iverson of The Bad Plus. MMDG's film and television projects include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut*, and two documentaries for the U.K.'s *South Bank Show*. In fall 2001, the Dance Group opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, New York, the company's first permanent headquarters in the U.S, housing rehearsal space for the dance community, outreach programs for local children, as well as a school offering dance classes to students of all ages.

MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE was formed in 1996 and since that time has joined the Mark Morris Dance Group on tour throughout the U.S., U.K., Australia and Japan. The Ensemble's repertory ranges from 17th-century works by John Wilson and Henry Purcell to more recent scores by Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell. In addition, the Ensemble presents concerts at the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn and other venues, and participates in the Mark Morris Dance, Music, and Literacy program in the New York City public school system. The Ensemble is under the direction of Wolfram Koessel.

PHILIP ANDERSON (*tenor*) made his Carnegie Hall debut in December 2002 singing Handel's *Messiah* with Masterworks Chorus and Orchestra. He has been a soloist with The New York Collegium, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Sacred Music in a Sacred Space, and The Waterbury Symphony Orchestra. Much in demand among early music ensembles, he has sung with Artek, Chatham Baroque, Lionheart, My Lord Chamberlain's Consort, New York State Baroque, Piffaro, and The Queens Chamber Band. Philip is a member of the Tiffany Consort. Their CD of Christmas music, *O Magnum Mysterium*, was nominated for a 2005 Grammy Award. When not singing, he can be found in North Salem, NY growing vegetables and raising chickens.

STEVEN BECK (*piano*) was born in 1978 and is a graduate of the Juilliard School, where his teachers were Seymour Lipkin and Peter Serkin. He made his debut with the National Symphony Orchestra and toured Japan as soloist with the New York Symphonic Ensemble. Other orchestras with which he has appeared include the New Juilliard Ensemble (under David Robertson), Sequitur, and the Virginia Symphony. Mr. Beck has performed as soloist and chamber musician at the Kennedy Center, Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, Miller Theater, Steinway Hall, and Tonic, as well as on WNYC; summer appearances include the Aspen Music Festival, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, and the Woodstock Mozart Festival. He is an Artist Presenter and frequent performer at Bargemusic. He has worked with Elliott Carter, Henri Dutilleux, and George Perle, and has appeared with ensembles such as Speculum Musicae, Sospeso, Friends and Enemies of New Music, and Counterinduction, and is also a member of the notorious Knights of the Many-Sided Table. His recordings are on the Albany, Monument, and Annemarie Classics labels. He has played with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 2004.

CRAIG BIESECKER, from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, received a B.S. in Music Education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. While teaching music in Philadelphia, he studied ballet with John White, Margarita de Saa, and Bryan Koulman and worked with choreographers Tim and Lina Early. In New York City he has worked with Pascal Rioult, Carolyn Dorfman, New York Theater Ballet, Mark Dendy, and Gerald Casel. Craig joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2003.

JOE BOWIE was born in Lansing, Michigan, and began dancing while attending Brown University where he graduated with honors in English and American Literature. In New York he has performed in the works of Robert Wilson and Ulysses Dove and also danced with the Paul Taylor Dance Company for two years before going to Belgium to work with Mark Morris in 1989.

CHARLTON BOYD was born in New Jersey, where he studied and performed with the Inner City Ensemble Theater and Dance Company. He graduated from The Juilliard School. He went on to dance with the Limón Dance Company and appears in [Jose Limón Technique Video, Volume 1](#), among other music videos. He first appeared with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1989 and became a company member in 1994.

EILEEN CLARK (*soprano*) has sung with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 1997 in works of Monteverdi, Purcell, Bach, Brahms, and old Broadway. She has sung Queen of the Night (*The Magic Flute*) and Naiad (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) with Syracuse Opera, Adina (*Elixir of Love*) with Commonwealth Opera and the baroque dance role Galatea (*Pygmalion*) with Concert Royal. Eileen has also enjoyed singing for the dancers of the Limón Dance Company, Anita Feldman Tap, Toby Twining Music and at Kaatsbaan and Jacob's Pillow. This year Eileen is a winner of a JPF record award for her CD "Lemons Descending" with cellist Matt Haimovitz (Oxingale records).

AMBER DARRAGH is originally from Newport, Oregon, where she began her dance training with Nancy Mittleman. She received her B.F.A. from The Juilliard School in 1999 and then danced with the Limón Dance Company for two years. She is a recipient of the 2001 Princess Grace Award and has presented her own choreography both in New York and abroad. Amber joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2001.

RITA DONAHUE was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia, and attended George Mason University, where she graduated with honors in Dance and English in 2002. She danced with bopi's black sheep/dances by kraig patterson and joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2003.

LORENA EGAN began her training at the Phoenix School of Ballet in Arizona. She graduated from the Juilliard School in 1998 and went on to dance with Buglisi/Foreman Dance and the Pascal Rioult Dance Theater (1999 - 2005). Lorena joined the Mark Morris Dance Group as an apprentice in 2005.

EMILY EYRE (*alto*), born in New York and raised in Hawaii, is known for her lyrical style in performing concert repertoire ranging from Monteverdi to Meredith Monk. Solo performances include Handel's *Messiah* and Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Meredith Monk's *Atlas*, *Celebration Service*, and *Expeditions in Concert* with the Houston Grand Opera, Spoleto Festival, and Lincoln Center Festival, Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the Mark Morris Dance Group, and numerous orchestral concerts and recitals throughout the United States. Ms. Eyre lives in New York City.

MARJORIE FOLKMAN graduated summa cum laude from Barnard College and has attended Columbia University's Graduate Program in American Studies. She has danced with Amy Spencer and Richard Colton, Kraig Patterson, Neta Pulvermacher, Sally Hess, Ellen Cornfield, Sara Rudner, and the Repertory Understudy Group for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Marjorie began dancing with Mark Morris in 1996.

LAUREN GRANT was raised in Highland Park, Illinois, and has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1996. She has appeared in thirty-two of Mark Morris's dances, originating thirteen roles. Lauren has played the role of Marie in *The Hard Nut* since 1998, the same year she became a company member. At age three, she began studying ballet and character dance. She attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, graduating with a B.F.A. She teaches master classes in ballet and modern technique, as well as Mark Morris repertory, at schools and universities around the world, and MMDG's school in Brooklyn. She is married to fellow dancer David Leventhal.

JOHN HEGINBOTHAM is from Anchorage, Alaska, and graduated from The Juilliard School in 1993. He has performed with such artists as Susan Marshall and Company, John Jasperse, and Ben Munisteri; he was a guest artist with Pilobolus Dance Theater. John's choreography is featured in the performances and [Emerge](#) music video of recording artists Fischerspooner. He joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998.

YOSUKE KAWASAKI (*violin*) is currently the co-concertmaster of the Saito Kinen Orchestra and the Mito Chamber Orchestra of Japan. He was the former concertmaster of the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra from 1999 - 2001. As an active chamber musician, Kawasaki has worked with artists such as, Lukas Foss, Gary Graffman, Karl Leister, and Walter Van Hauwe. He has made duo appearances with Vadim Serebryany in America and Japan which included the complete cycle of Beethoven's Sonata for Piano and Violin in the 2000 season. His debut recording was recently released of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos on the King label. He has been playing with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 2002.

WOLFRAM KOESSEL (*cello*) made his critically acclaimed debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 1994, since then he has performed as soloist and chamber musician in concert halls throughout the world. Based in New York City, Mr. Koessel appears with a wide range of ensembles and chamber music groups, most notably the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and The Jupiter Symphony. As a soloist, Mr. Koessel has performed the standard as well as unusual cello concerto repertoire with the Jupiter Symphony, the New York Metamorphoses Orchestra, which he co-founded in 1994, the Mannes Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestras of Cordoba, Mendoza, Costa Rica and Stuttgart. Multifaceted as a chamber musician, Mr. Koessel is on the faculty of the New York Youth Symphony Chamber Music Program and is the music director of "Sundays on the Island" (a chamber music series on New York's City Island). He served until recently as cellist with the award-winning Meridian String Quartet. His performance of Tchaikovsky's "Rococo Variations" was featured on WQXR's "Young Artists Showcase". Upon completion of his master's degree at the Mannes College of Music, he was the recipient of the George and Elizabeth Gregory Award for Excellence in Performance. He has played with the MMDG Music Ensemble since 2000 and was named its Music Director in 2004.

DAVID LEVENTHAL, raised in Newton, Massachusetts, has danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group since 1997. He has appeared in thirty-five of Mark Morris's dances, including eleven premieres. He studied at Boston Ballet School and has danced with José Mateo's Ballet Theatre and the companies of Marcus Schulkind, Richard Colton/Amy Spencer, Zvi Gotheiner, Neta Pulvermacher, and Ben Munisteri. He graduated with honors in English Literature from Brown University in 1995. He teaches master classes in technique and repertory at schools and colleges around the country. He gives classes regularly at MMDG's school, including one for people with Parkinson's Disease. He is married to fellow dancer Lauren Grant.

BRADON McDONALD received his B.F.A. from The Juilliard School in 1997. He danced with the Limón Dance Company for three years and was the recipient of the 1998 Princess Grace Award. He has choreographed and presented his own works internationally, served as choreographer for seven Juilliard Opera Company productions under director Frank Corsaro, and was the choreographic assistant to Donald McKayle at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Bradon joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2000.

THOMAS MEGLIORANZA (*baritone*) has quickly established himself as one of the country's most sought-after singers, displaying a remarkably versatile voice that is equally at home in repertoire ranging from Monteverdi, to Schubert, to Babbitt to Bernstein. He was a winner of the 2005 Walter W. Naumburg International Competition, the 2002 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, the 2002 Joy in Singing Award and the 2003 Franz Schubert and Music of Modernity International Competition in Graz, Austria. Mr. Meglioranza's 2005-06 season features a wide variety of New York engagements, including his debut with the MET Chamber Ensemble under James Levine at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, in addition to solo recitals at Symphony Space, the Neue Galerie and Columbia University's Italian Academy, and he will also be soloist for *The Messiah* at St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue. In collaboration with dance companies, he sang *Carmina Burana* for the opening of the American Ballet Theatre's spring 2003 season at the Metropolitan Opera House, and most recently he sang with the Waverly Consort and the Mark Morris Dance Group at New York's Mostly Mozart Festival.

GREGORY NUBER graduated from Arizona State University, where he studied acting and dance. He danced with Pascal Rioult Dance Theatre for three years; appeared as a guest artist with New York City Opera, Cleveland Opera and Tennessee Repertory Theatre; and worked with numerous New York-based choreographers. Gregory began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998 and became a company member in 2001. He is on the faculty at the School at the Mark Morris Dance Center and teaches master classes in the United States and abroad.

MAILE OKAMURA is originally from San Diego, California. She was a member of Boston Ballet II in 1992-93 and Ballet Arizona in 1993-96. She has danced with choreographers Neta Pulvermacher, Zvi Gotheiner, and Gerald Casel, among others. Maile began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1998 and became a company member in 2001.

JUNE OMURA is originally from New York City and grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, where she began her performing career with Ballet UAB. In 1986 she graduated from Barnard College with honors in Dance and English, and that summer she first performed with Mark Morris as a workshop student. June joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1988 and won a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie) in 2005 for her work with the company. She is the proud mother of twin girls.

JESSICA TROY (*viola*), a native New Yorker, has played with the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble since 1998. She wears a wide variety of freelance hats; a member of the Brooklyn Philharmonic, she has recently performed with Sequitur, the new music ensemble, on baroque viola with Renee Fleming on the David Letterman Show, and everything in between. She has participated at many illustrious chamber music festivals, including Prussia Cove and Marlboro-- she can be heard on the latter's 50th anniversary CD. She is a proud resident of MMDG's own Fort Greene neighborhood in Brooklyn.

NOAH VINSON received his B.A. in dance from Columbia College Chicago, where he worked with Shirley Mordine, Jan Erkert, and Brian Jeffrey. In New York, he has danced with Teri and Oliver Steele and the Kevin Wynn Collection. He began working with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.

WILLIAM WINANT (*percussion*) has recorded and toured extensively with such noted artists as John Zorn, Sonic Youth, and the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Since 1995 he's been the percussionist with the avant-garde rock band Mr. Bungle, and has performed throughout the world with this group. Their recordings can be heard on Warner Brothers Records and Tapes.

JULIE WORDEN graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts and joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1994.

MICHELLE YARD was born in Brooklyn, New York, and began her professional dance training at the New York City High School of the Performing Arts. Upon graduation she received the Helen Tamiris and B'nai Brith awards. For three years she was a scholarship student at the Alvin Ailey Dance Center, and attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Michelle joined the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1997. Mom, thank you.

M A R K M O R R I S

D A N C E G R O U P



Mark Morris



Craig Biesecker



Joe Bowie



Charlton Boyd



Amber Darragh



Rita Donahue



Lorena Egan



Marjorie Folkman



Lauren Grant



John Heginbotham



David Leventhal



Bradon McDonald



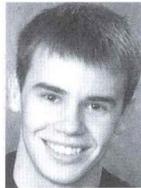
Gregory Nuber



Maile Okamura



June Omura



Noah Vinson



Julie Worden



Michelle Yard

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP STAFF

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support and incalculable contribution to the work.

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